



February 16, 2023

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The Board of the Business Loop Community Improvement District strongly supports the City of Columbia, Missouri's application for the **Reconnecting and Revitalizing an Underserved Community: I-70 Business Loop Corridor Study** through the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) FY23 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Program.

The Loop Board

James Roark-Gruender
Chair
Passions

Michele Batye
Flooring America

Karen Geotz
Dive Bar

Sara Huaco
Carlito's Cabo

Ryan Euliss
Boone Electric Coop

Suzi McGarvey
MACC

Jay Rader
Bus Loop 70 Properties

A study along the I-70 Business Loop Corridor will be conducted to reinvigorate and reconnect areas in the community that were negatively impacted by I-70 in the late 1950s and are noted as historically disadvantaged and underserved. It will create accessible multi-modal operations, enhanced streetscaping aesthetics, and increased economic vitality along this historic roadway. Elements proposed include Complete Streets features, intersection improvements, improved bike lanes and pedestrian connections, ADA accessibility upgrades, and mobility enhancements that will support a growing network of community services and established education and commercial centers on the corridor.

It will also include an innovative approach to stormwater management to address mitigation of long-standing flooding and wet-weather impacts to areas in underserved communities that sit downstream both north and south of I70 Business Loop. It will create a blueprint for regional stormwater management to improve storm drainage runoff and water quality goals, attract investors and developers, and increase economic stability.

The study proposed for the RAISE funding leverages extensive City and stakeholder support for the revitalization of this critical corridor and key gateway into Columbia. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carrie Gartner'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Gartner
Executive Director
The Business Loop Community Improvement District



February 14, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter as a commitment from the Business Loop Community Improvement District (CID) to share in the study cost up to \$32,704 in local funds and in-kind staff assistance for the "Reconnecting and Revitalizing an Underserved Community: I-70 Business Loop Corridor Study" in Columbia, Missouri.

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The Business Loop CID has already spent just over \$200,000 on a concept plan and safety study for the corridor as well as funded a number of highly visible projects along the street. This additional commitment will assist with the community engagement process for the next phase of the plan, including public meetings, mailings, advertisements, staff activities, and the like.

Our organization supports this study as it will help Columbia alleviate safety and mobility concerns, reach Vision Zero goals, improve the quality of life for residents, and become a city that is environmentally and economically sustainable. The study will focus on the I-70 Business Loop; serving many businesses, underserved communities, churches, schools, and recreational activities.

Thank you for your support of this study and we look forward to working with the USDOT on this important community project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Gartner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Gartner
Executive Director
The Business Loop Community Improvement District